

I have seen the future if the broadcast ownership rule is relaxed. No, that is not true. Rather, I have seen the present under the rules that were relaxed just a handful of years ago. Sporting events that were shown to everyone have become available only to cable subscribers. None of the major newspapers, radio stations (more and more of which are owned by fewer and fewer corporations), or television stations have covered the proposed rule changes. Why should they? They are in favor of the change. But how will I benefit? It used to be that the airwaves were owned by the public--you and me collectively as individual citizens--and the station licenses had to be renewed every few years. Somehow that has changed from every few to very few. How do I benefit from hearing the same few radio shows (on tape, but made to sound local) as I travel, with next to no local news? News departments at radio stations have disappeared, local television news departments have merged with newspaper publications. Where is the competition that made America great (or so I was told) when newspapers and broadcast media have the same corporate owners.

I ask you hold the line. But even as I do, I feel myself in the position of King Canute, ordering the tide to stop, but ask I must. Hold the line on broadcast ownership. Yield not to temptation.